



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Leura G. Canary  
Middle District of Alabama

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## **TWO WOMEN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR BANK FRAUD SCAM**

**MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA** – April Mitchell, age 40, of Lithonia, Georgia, and Denise Appleton, age 48, of Gray, Tennessee, were sentenced today to federal prison for engaging in an identity theft and bank fraud scheme which was operated in Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina, U.S. Attorney Leura G. Canary announced. Chief United States District Judge Mark E. Fuller sentenced Mitchell to 24 months imprisonment to be followed by 5 years supervised release and ordered her to pay a special assessment fee of \$200. Chief Judge Fuller sentenced Appleton to 14 months imprisonment to be followed by 5 years supervised release and ordered her to pay a special assessment fee of \$100. Chief Judge Fuller ordered both Mitchell and Appleton to pay restitution jointly in the amount of \$73,626.63.

Mitchell previously pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud and one count of bank fraud, and Appleton previously pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit bank fraud. According to court documents, in 2008, Mitchell, Appleton, and their co-defendant, Shirene Wallace, executed a scheme to defraud federally-insured financial institutions by opening lines of credit in stores using other persons' names and then using the fraudulent store credit cards to purchase goods and services.

Both Mitchell and Appleton are scheduled to voluntarily surrender to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons on June 28, 2011. Wallace was sentenced last month to 36 months imprisonment and is scheduled to voluntarily surrender to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons on June 1, 2011.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service, Alabama Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Public Safety. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Jerusha T. Adams and Brent Woodall.